

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
 v.) CR. NO. 2:05-cr-205-T
)
 JOSEPH D. ARMSTRONG)

PLEA AGREEMENT

DEFENSE COUNSEL: JOHN POTI

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: TERRY F. MOORER

COUNT AND STATUTES CHARGED:

Count 1 21 U.S.C. § 846
Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine

COUNT PLEADING PURSUANT TO PLEA AGREEMENT:

Count 1 21 U.S.C. § 846

MAXIMUM PENALTY:

Count 1 21 U.S.C. § 846
Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine

Not less than 10 years, nor more than life imprisonment; a fine not to exceed \$4,000,000, or both fine and imprisonment; a term of supervised release of no less than 5 years; and an assessment fee of \$100.00.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE

Count 1 21 U.S.C. § 846

1. That two or more persons in some way or manner, came to a mutual understanding to try to accomplish a common and unlawful plan, as charged in the indictment, to wit: to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine; and

2. That the defendant, knowing the unlawful purpose of the plan, willfully joined in it.

Terry F. Moorer, Assistant United States Attorney, and John Poti, Esquire, attorney for the defendant, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as amended, have, with the authorization of the undersigned defendant, heretofore entered into discussions with a view towards reaching a pretrial conclusion of the charges pending in the Indictment herein and a Plea Agreement has been reached by said parties.

GOVERNMENT'S PROVISIONS

1. Upon entering a plea of guilty by the defendant to the offense charged in Count 1 of the Indictment, the attorney for the Government will do the following:

- a. The Government agrees to attribute to the defendant as relevant conduct, no more than 1.4 kilograms of a mixture and substance containing a detectible amount of methamphetamine under the provisions of § 2 D1.1 U.S.S.G..
- b. The Government agrees that the defendant will receive a 3 level downward departure pursuant to § 5K1.1 U.S.S.G. If the defendant provides substantial assistance in other cases the defendant shall receive a further motion for downward departure under the provisions of Rule 35, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
- c. The Government will agree that the defendant receive a 3-level reduction in the applicable offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) for the defendant's acceptance of responsibility is appropriate, so long as the defendant does not obstruct justice or otherwise fail to accept responsibility for the offense conduct.

d. The government will not seek an upward role adjustment against the defendant under § 3B1.1 U.S.S.G.

2. The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant Indictment concerning the offenses and the defendant's background.

DEFENDANT'S PROVISIONS

1. The defendant agrees to the following:

- a. To plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment.
- b. It is understood that by signing this agreement, you may provide substantial assistance to law enforcement agents. "Substantial assistance" with law enforcement agents under this agreement is understood to include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Making consensually monitored telephone calls to, or otherwise contacting, persons known to be involved in violations of the law.
 - (2) Introducing undercover law enforcement officers to persons you know to be involved in illegal activity.
 - (3) Maintaining contact with the law enforcement agents with whom you are working. You shall work under the direct supervision of law enforcement agents. At no time are you authorized to take any actions without first obtaining the direct authorization of such agents. Any independent and unauthorized actions will be deemed a violation of this agreement.

- (4) Testifying truthfully against any such persons before any and all grand juries and at any and all hearings and trials.
- (5) You agree to make a good faith effort to assist law enforcement agencies in arranging and making undercover contacts with other persons you know to be involved in illegal activity.
- (6) You will cooperate fully and truthfully with the government in this investigation and in any other federal criminal investigation. You will respond, completely, fully and truthfully to all inquiries addressed to you by representatives of the government, and you will testify fully and truthfully at any and all reasonable times and places before grand juries and against any and all defendants at the trial of any and all cases arising from this investigation or any other such investigation.

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant admits the allegations charged in the Indictment and understands that the nature of the charge to which the plea is offered involves proof as to the charges in the Indictment. Specifically, the defendant admits the following to be true and correct: From an unknown date to on or about May 5, 2005, the defendant conspired with various persons to possess methamphetamine and did distribute methamphetamine in the Middle District of Alabama.

DEFENDANT WAIVES APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

1. Understanding that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 provides for appeal by a defendant of the sentence under certain circumstances, the defendant expressly waives any and all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentence. Defendant further expressly waives

the right to appeal the conviction and sentence on any other ground and waives the right to attack the sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. This waiver does not include the right to appeal on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel and prosecutorial misconduct.

Notwithstanding the above, the defendant reserves the right to file a direct appeal of an upward departure from the applicable Guidelines range which the sentencing court specifies at the time of sentencing as having been imposed pursuant to either U.S.S.G. § 4A1.3 (from criminal history category) or § 5K2.0 (from offense level). The defendant understands and agrees that this waiver as to all other Guidelines findings would still be in force and effect notwithstanding the appealability of an upward departure.

Further, the defendant agrees that this Court has jurisdiction and authority to impose any sentence up to the statutory maximum set for the offense and pursuant to the sentencing guidelines and expressly waives the right to appeal defendant's sentence, directly or collaterally, on the ground that the sentencing guidelines are in any respect unconstitutional, on the grounds that any fact found by the Court for sentencing was not alleged in the Indictment, admitted by the Defendant, found by a jury, or found beyond a reasonable doubt, and on any other ground, including the applicability of the "safety valve" provisions contained in 18 U.S.C. §3553(f) and USSG § 5C1.2, except for an upward departure by the sentencing judge, a sentence above the statutory maximum, or a sentence in violation of the other law apart from the sentencing guidelines; provided, however, that if the government exercises its right to appeal the sentence imposed, as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742, then except for the waiver of appeal on the ground that the sentencing guidelines are in any respect unconstitutional and on the grounds that any

fact found by the Court for sentencing was not alleged in the Indictment, admitted by the defendant, found by a jury, or found beyond a reasonable doubt, the waiver of which will remain in force, the defendant is released from this waiver and may appeal the sentence as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a).

In return for the above waiver by the defendant, the Government does not waive its right to appeal the sentence imposed in the instant case. The Government does not waive its right to appeal any order dismissing the Indictment, vacating a sentence, or otherwise terminating the prosecution at any stage of the proceedings. Further, the parties agree that nothing in this agreement shall affect the Government's right and/or duty to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b).

DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1. The defendant, before entering a plea of guilty to the Indictment, as provided for herein by said Plea Agreement, advises the Court that:

a. The discussions between the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the defendant towards reaching an agreed plea in this case have taken place with the defendant's authorization and consent.

b. The defendant further understands that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, said \$100.00 assessment fee is to be paid by the defendant on the date of sentencing and that, if a fine is imposed by the Court at sentencing, the defendant shall meet with a member of the Financial Litigation Section of the United States Attorney's Office on the day of sentencing and complete a written personal financial statement setting forth the defendant's assets and liabilities as of the date of the offense. The defendant will make an honest, good faith effort to pay said fine as directed by the Financial Litigation Section

of the United States Attorney's Office. The defendant further understands that by completing the financial statement, the defendant is representing that it is true and accurate to the best of the defendant's Indictment, knowledge, and belief.

c. The defendant understands that the defendant has a right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceedings against the defendant herein and is represented by the defendant's undersigned attorney.

d. The defendant understands that the defendant has the right to plead not guilty and has the right to be tried by a jury and, at a trial thereof, has the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant, the right to call witnesses in the defendant's own behalf, and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant, and that if the defendant enters a plea of guilty herein, there will not be a further trial of any kind and that by the entry of such a plea, the defendant waives the right to a trial by jury or to a trial before the Court.

e. The defendant further understands that in entering a plea of guilty herein, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the plea is entered and further understands that if the defendant answers these questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, which questions and answers would be recorded, that the answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

f. The defendant further understands and advises the Court that the Plea Agreement as set forth herein and the plea to be entered by the defendant as a result thereof is voluntary on the defendant's part and is not the result of any force or threats or of any promises apart from the aforesaid Plea Agreement. The defendant further advises

the Court that the Plea Agreement set forth herein is the result of prior discussions between the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the defendant, all conducted with the defendant's authorization, knowledge, and consent.

g. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant's understanding of this Plea Agreement is as set forth in this document.

h. The defendant further understands that the Government can only make a recommendation, which is not binding upon the Court. However, if the Court does not accept the Plea Agreement, the defendant may withdraw his guilty plea, if he so chooses.

i. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant understands and has been advised that evidence of a plea of guilty, later withdrawn or an offer to plead guilty to the crime charged in the Indictment herein, or of statements made in connection with and relevant to said plea or offer to plead, shall not be admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings against the defendant. However, the defendant does understand that evidence of a statement made in connection with and relevant to a plea of guilty, later withdrawn, or an offer to plead guilty to the crimes charged in the Indictment herein, is admissible in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement when the statement was made by the defendant under oath, on the court record, and in the presence of counsel.

j. The defendant further understands that if the defendant has failed or should fail in any way to fulfill completely the defendant's obligations under this agreement, including, but not limited to, committing any new state or federal criminal offense while awaiting sentencing, then the Government will be released from its commitment to honor all of its obligations to the defendant without the defendant being able to withdraw his guilty plea. The determination of whether the defendant has breached this plea agreement by

failing to fulfill the defendant's obligations herein, will be at the sole discretion of the Government.

k. The defendant is satisfied that defense counsel has been competent and effective in representing defendant.

2. The undersigned attorneys for the Government and for the defendant represent to the court that the foregoing Plea Agreement is the agreement of the parties that has been reached pursuant to the Plea Agreement procedure provided for in Rule 11(c)(1)(C), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as Amended. The attorney for the defendant further advises the Court that the defendant has been advised of the nature of the charge to which the foregoing described plea is to be offered, and that the defendant has been advised of the defendant's right to plead not guilty and to be tried by a jury on all issues herein; of the maximum possible penalty provided by law; that by the entering of a plea of guilty as aforesaid, the defendant waives the right to be tried by a jury or by the Court, waives the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant; and that if the defendant pleads guilty, there will not be a further trial of any kind. Further, the defendant has been advised that if the defendant pleads guilty, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the defendant has pleaded and that if the plea is rejected or later withdrawn, that the answers to such questions may not be used against the defendant in a civil or criminal proceeding, but that the defendant's answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

3. The defendant understands that the U.S. Probation Office will prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court. The Probation Officer will consider the

defendant's conduct related to the offense to which the plea is offered, as well as the defendant's criminal history. The offense level or criminal history category, as calculated by the Probation Officer and determined by the court, may differ from that projected by defendant's counsel or the U.S. Attorney.

This 51st day of January, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

LEURA GARRETT CANARY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



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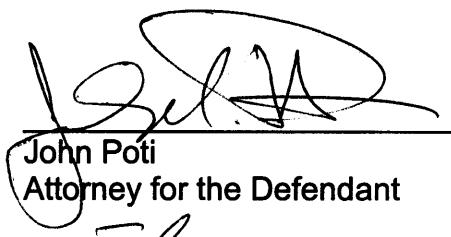


Louis V. Franklin, Sr.
Chief - Criminal Division

I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement, understand the same, and the matters and facts set forth therein accurately and correctly state the representations that have been made to me and accurately set forth the conditions of the Plea Agreement that has been reached.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I AGREE, I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS" PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM SATISFIED THAT I HAVE RECEIVED COMPETENT ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION FROM MY DEFENSE COUNSEL.

Joseph D. Armstrong
Joseph D. Armstrong
Defendant
02/06/06
Date


John Poti
Attorney for the Defendant

Feb 4, 2006
Date